

February 17, 2006

Dear Friend:

Last week President Bush unveiled his budget recommendation to Congress for fiscal year 2007 (FY07). Unfortunately, instead of righting the fiscal ship, the President's budget recommendations will continue to steer us off-course, further entangling us in red ink and misplaced priorities.

On the day of President Bush's first inauguration our country was anticipating a projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion. However, after five years of misguided policies, the projected deficit for the same time period has reached \$3.3 trillion. That is an astounding fiscal reversal of \$8.9 trillion in just five years.

For the current fiscal year the projected deficit is \$423 billion. This would be the largest deficit in history, surpassing even the deficits of the past three years, which were each the highest in U.S. history. The FY07 budget recently proposed is more of the same. The President's budget creates deficits for the next 10 years and it never achieved balance. Even more damaging, when items are included that the President omits from calculation, his budget would result in deficits totaling an additional \$3.9 trillion over the next 10 years. These figures include the ten-year cost of fixing the Alternative Minimum Tax and realistic continuing costs for the Iraqi war.

We must return to the days of fiscal responsibility. Over the past years I have supported alternative budget resolutions that would have balanced the budget by 2012, and if allowed to bring an alternative budget proposal to the floor this year, I will support it again. Unfortunately, the Administration and Majority in Congress continue to pursue policies that have already squandered our budget surplus, caused our national debt to skyrocket, and have led to interest on our national debt being the fastest growing category of spending in the budget. America can and must do better. For more information on the President's budget please visit <http://www.tomudall.house.gov/display2.cfm?id=10113&type=Issues>.